

Message Text

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64

ACTION LAB-06

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ELAB, BU

SUBJECT: DOL SEMINAR

DEPT PASS DOL FOR BUGBEE

REF: (A) STATE 143150; (B) DAUMYANOV/SNOW MEMCON 13 AUG

1. SUMMARY: MEETING WITH MINISTRY OF LABOR OFFICIAL TO DISCUSS DOL SEMINAR RESULTED IN AGREEMENT BY OFFICIAL TO CONSIDER SEMINAR IN LIGHT OF GOB FIVE-YEAR PLAN.
2. ON AUGUST 28, DCM AND P&C OFFICERS CALLED ON BORIS VASILEV, CHIEF OF DIRECTORATE FOR COOPERATION WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES, MINISTRY OF LABOR AND SOCIAL WELFARE. MEETING WAS ARRANGED VIA EMBASSY NOTE TO FOREIGN MINISTRY (REF B).
3. EMBOFFS OUTLINED HISTORY SEMINARS AT PLOVDIV FAIR AND REASONS FOR DESIRING SEMINAR OUTSIDE FAIR CONTEXT; NOTED DOL CO-SPONSORED SEMINARS ELSEWHERE IN EASTERN EUROPE. VASILEV SAID HE HAD NOT KNOWN PREVIOUSLY OF PURPOSE OF MEETING (WHICH WAS IN NOTE BUT APPARENTLY NOT TRANSMITTED TO HIM) AND ASKED OUR VIEWS ON SUBJECT, PERSONNEL AND STRUCTURE OF SEMINAR. EMBOFFS STRESSED THESE DEPEND ON MUTUAL AGREEMENT, BUT PRESENTED LIST OF POSSIBLE SUBJECTS DRAWN FROM DOL DIVISION OF SPECIAL PROGRAMS BOOK; IN ADDITION SUGGESTED RETRAINING AGRICULTURAL MANPOWER, EITHER FOR MECHANIZED AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT OR FOR URBAN INDUSTRY; NOTED U.S. SEMINAR STYLE TENDS BE LESS FORMAL THAN EASTERN EUROPEAN; SUGGESTED

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3-4 U.S. PARTICIPANTS, ABOUT 30 BULGARIANS, TWICE-A-DAY SESSIONS

FOR 3-4 DAYS.

4. AFTER NOTING SOME SUGGESTED TOPICS NOT WITHIN COMPETENCY HIS MINISTRY, VASILEV CONFIRMED SEMINARS REQUIRE DOVETAILING WITH ACTIVITIES IN FIVE-YEAR PLAN. HE SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS SUBJECT WITH COMPETENT AUTHORITIES AND PROMISED HE WOULD OBTAIN FULL INFORMATION ABOUT POSSIBILITIES OF CO-SPONSORING SEMINAR FOR SUBSEQUENT MEETING. IN PASSING HE CHARACTERIZED SEMINARS AT PLOVDIV FAIR AS "PROPAGANDISTIC".

5. COMMENT: VASILEV'S QUESTIONING INDICATED RECEPTIVITY TO IDEA OF SEMINAR IN GENERAL. FIVE-YEAR PLAN'S NEXT REVIEW AND POSSIBLE REVISION DUE IN DECEMBER. UNLESS MINISTRY OF LABOR BECOMES QUICKLY ENAMORED OF SEMINAR, WHICH WE DOUBT, SEEMS PROBABLE SEMINAR COULD NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL NEXT YEAR. WHEN TIMING AND SUBJECT OF SEMINAR ARE SET, WE WELCOME DOL OFFER SEND OFFICER HERE TO ASSIST IN FINAL ARRANGEMENTS (REF A, PARA 2).
HERZ

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